

## Hobbies

# Plain bills aimed at slowing counterfeiters

By Roger Boye

**H**ere are answers to more questions about coins and currency.

**Q**—My family was impressed with the colorful currency we found in so many European countries. Why doesn't the U.S. add bright colors to its money?

**P. O., Chicago Heights**

**A**—Officials believe the uniform black and green ink forces consumers to look at a bill's design to determine the denomination. That extra bit of scrutiny helps to reduce the number of counterfeits in circulation, or so the theory goes.

**Q**—How much would dealers pay for old silver dollars? All 12 of my coins have long since lost their shine.

**T. Y., Chicago**

**A**—Prices vary greatly with date, mint mark and condition. However, many coin shops will offer at least \$10 each for dollars minted between 1878 and 1904, and \$7.50 or more for dollars dated 1921 to 1935.

**Q**—Some dealers say in advertisements that they will pay more for ANACS and PCGS coins. What do those letters mean?

**B. M., Oak Lawn**

**A**—"ANACS" and "PCGS" are the initials of two services that authenticate and grade old coins. Rarities with "certification papers" from such services often bring a special premium on the hobby market.

**Q**—We saved several Eisenhower silver dollars in the late 1970s. How much is the metal worth today?

**G. J., Chicago**

**A**—Contrary to popular belief, all Ike dollars made for circulation between 1971 and 1978 con-

tain just copper and nickel. The only silver specimens were sold to collectors in plastic holders. Silver Ikes usually retail in the \$5 to \$45 range, depending on date and other factors.

*Questions about old coins or paper money? Send your queries to Roger Boye, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply and allow at least three weeks for the answer.*